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<http://dx.doi.org/10.1289/ehp.1307379>

Received: 16 July 2013

Accepted: 7 October 2014

Advance Publication: 10 October 2014

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National Institute of
Environmental Health Sciences

Src-Mediated EGF Receptor Activation Regulates Ozone-Induced Interleukin 8 Expression in Human Bronchial Epithelial Cells

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Running title: EGFR regulates zone-induced IL-8 expression

Acknowledgments: The work was supported by the National Natural Science Foundation of China (81373030), and National Institute of Health (U19AI077437), USA. Although the research described in this article was funded in part by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency through Cooperative Agreement CR83346301 with the Center for Environmental Medicine, Asthma, and Lung Biology at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, it has not been subjected to the

Agency's required peer and policy review and therefore does not necessarily reflect the views of the Agency and no official endorsement should be inferred. Mention of trade names or commercial products does not constitute endorsement or recommendation for use.

Competing financial interests: None of the authors has any competing financial interests.

Abstract

Background: Human exposure to ozone (O₃) results in pulmonary function decrements and airway inflammation. The mechanisms underlying these adverse effects remain unclear. Epidermal growth factor receptor (EGFR) plays an important role in the pathogenesis of lung inflammation.

Objective: To examine the role of EGFR activation in O₃-induced expression of the chemokine interleukin 8 (IL-8) in human bronchial epithelial cells (HBEC).

Methods: Phosphorylated EGFR was detected using immunoblotting. EGFR dimerization was examined through cross-linking reaction and immunoblotting. Levels of IL-8 protein was measured using ELISA.

Results: Exposure to O₃ (0.25-1.0 ppm) induced rapid and marked increase in EGFR phosphorylation at the autophosphorylation site Y1068 and the transphosphorylation site Y845, implicating the involvement of Src kinase. Further investigation showed that O₃ stimulation induced phosphorylation of Src at Y416, indicative of Src activation. Pharmacological inhibition of Src kinase activity abrogated O₃-induced EGFR phosphorylation at tyrosines 1068 and 845. Moreover, pretreatment of BEAS-2B cells with inhibitor of either EGFR or Src kinase activities significantly blocked O₃-induced IL-8 expression.

Conclusion: O₃ exposure increases IL-8 expression through Src-mediated EGFR transactivation in HBEC.

Introduction

Ozone (O₃) is formed by the photochemical reaction of sunlight with nitrogen oxides, facilitated by the presence of a variety of volatile organic compounds. Natural background concentrations of ground-level ozone are typically around 30–100 µg/m³. However, short-term (one-hour) mean ambient concentrations in urban areas may exceed 300–800 µg/m³ (WHO, 1979). Both natural and anthropogenic sources contribute to the emission of ground-level O₃ precursors, and the composition of emissions may show large variations across locations (WBG, 1998). Motor vehicles are the main anthropogenic sources of ground-level O₃ precursors (Devlin et al, 1994, Seltzer et al, 1986).

A large volume of information on the health impacts of ground-level ozone is derived from animal studies, while a more limited number of investigations have concentrated on population and controlled human studies focused on short-term exposures. Clinical studies on asthmatic and non-asthmatic adults have demonstrated that acute exposure to O₃ results in decreases in lung function, enhanced allergen-induced bronchoconstriction, and increases in airway inflammation typified by an influx of neutrophils (Alexis et al. 2004; Alexis et al. 2008; Alexis et al. 2010; Hernandez et al. 2010; Holz et al. 1999; Jorres et al. 2000). Similarly, short term exposure to elevated levels of O₃ leads to an early inflammatory response characterized by neutrophil accumulation in several animal models (Driscoll et al. 1993; Kleeberger and Hudak 1992; Seltzer et al. 1986; Zhao et al. 1998).

Interleukin 8 (IL-8) is a potent neutrophil activator and chemotaxin that is often used as a biological marker of environmentally induced pulmonary inflammation (Kunkel et al. 1991; Standiford et al. 1993). O₃ inhalation induces airway epithelial damage and increased release of pro-inflammatory mediators, including IL-8, in human bronchoalveolar lavage fluid (Bosson et al. 2003 ; Krishna et al. 1998). *In vitro* exposure to O₃ has been shown to induce IL-8 production in human bronchial epithelial cells (HBEC) (Bayram et al. 2001; Devlin et al. 1994; Rusznak et al. 1996). However, the mechanisms that regulate O₃-induced IL-8 expression have not been fully elucidated.

The expression of the IL-8 gene in HBEC is known to be regulated through both message stabilization and transcriptional activation that is modulated by signaling pathways that include growth factor receptors (Khabar 2010; Standiford, et al. 1993). The activation of the epidermal growth factor receptor (EGFR) is a pivotal event in normal and pathophysiological conditions leading to the initiation of multiple signaling pathways that lead to alterations in gene expression (Takeyama et al. 2001). EGFR is a single transmembrane protein that possesses intrinsic tyrosine kinase activity, which can be directly activated or transactivated in response to a variety of stimuli (Gschwind et al. 2001). The cytoplasmic region of human EGFR contains an intrinsic tyrosine kinase (697-955) followed by a 231-residue-long COOH-terminal tail, which contains multiple tyrosine residues that function as phosphorylation sites (Xia et al. 2002). Five sites of *in vivo* autophosphorylation have been identified in the EGFR: three major (tyrosines 1068, 1148, and 1173) and two minor (tyrosines 992 and 1086) (Downward et al. 1984 ; Margolis et al.

1989). The binding of phosphorylated EGFR tyrosines with downstream signaling proteins initiates the simultaneous activation of multiple signaling cascades that culminate in a broad range of cellular responses spanning proliferation, migration, protein secretion, differentiation, and oncogenesis (Wells 1999).

Previous studies have demonstrated that epithelial expression of the EGFR and its ligands including EGF and transforming growth factor α were all significantly increased in nasal biopsy specimens collected following O₃ exposure of human volunteers, suggesting a positive correlation between EGFR expression and the increase in neutrophil numbers in the nasal epithelium (Polosa et al. 2004). Another study using human epidermal keratinocytes showed that exposure to O₃ resulted in increased phosphorylation of EGFR (Afaq et al. 2009). In the present study, we have investigated the effect of O₃ stimulation on EGFR phosphorylation and its relationship with IL-8 expression in HBEC. We report here that the cytosolic tyrosine kinase Src can regulate EGFR activity, further modulating O₃-induced IL-8 expression.

Materials and Methods

Reagents

Bis[sulfosuccinimidyl]suberate (BS3), PP2, Bosutinib (Src kinase inhibitors) and compound 56 (C56, EGFR inhibitor) were obtained from Calbiochem (San Diego, CA). The rabbit antibodies against phospho-EGFR (Y1068), -EGFR (Y845), Src(Y416) and pan EGFR and Src were purchased from Cell Signaling Technology (Beverly, MA). Horseradish peroxidase

(HRP)-conjugated goat anti-rabbit antibody was obtained from Santa Cruz Biotechnology (Santa Cruz, CA). Lactate dehydrogenase (LDH) cytotoxicity detection kit was obtained from TAKARA Bio Inc. (Mountain View, CA). IL-8 ELISA assay kit was purchased from eBioscience (San Diego, CA).

Cell culture and O₃ exposure

BEAS-2B cell culture: The BEAS-2B cell line was derived by transforming human bronchial epithelial cells with an adenovirus 12-simian virus 40 construct (Reddel et al. 1988). BEAS-2B cells (passages 70-80) were cultured in supplemented keratinocyte basal medium (KBM) as described previously (Wu et al. 2011). The cells were placed on 6-well culture plates (Costar, Cambridge, MA) and grown to confluence. Normal human bronchial epithelial (NHBE) cells were obtained from normal adult human volunteers by brush biopsy of the mainstem bronchus using a cytology brush during fiberoptic bronchoscopy, conducted under a protocol approved by the Committee on the Protection of the Rights of Human Subjects at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Human participants gave written informed consent prior to the study. NHBE cells were initially plated in supplemented bronchial epithelial cell basal medium (Tal et al. 2006). Confluent cells were split and placed on the Transwells® for air liquid interface (ALI) culture before O₃ exposure. A431 cells were obtained from the Lineberger Cancer Center Tissue Culture Facility at the University of North Carolina (Chapel Hill, NC). A431 cells were cultured on plastic flasks in Dulbecco's minimum essential medium (DMEM) with high glucose supplemented with 10% fetal bovine serum and gentamicin (5 µg/ml).

Prior to exposure of BEAS-2B or A431 cells, 0.5 ml of media was placed in each well of the 6-well plates. In some experiments, BEAS-2B cells were pretreated with 1 μ M of C56, 10 μ M PP2 or Bosutinib (5 or 10 μ M) for 30 min, respectively, before O₃ exposure. After exposure, the cells were lysed and the cell lysates subjected to immunoblotting for measurement of phospho-EGFR (Y1068), or –EGFR (Y845). The supernatants of cell medium were collected for measurement of IL-8 protein. Exposure to O₃ or clean air were conducted using a rotating inclined platform in especially designed *in vitro* exposure chambers operated by the US Environmental Protection Agency Environmental Public Health Division as described previously (Devlin et al. 1994). The exposure atmosphere contained 5 % CO₂, the relative humidity was maintained at >95 %, and the temperature was 37 °C throughout the exposure. Conditions in the air control chamber were identical except for the absence of O₃. In the case of the ALI-cultured NHBE, the cells were exposed without media in the apical surface without rotation of the platform. Air controls were run simultaneously in an identical duplicate chamber in which no ozone was introduced.

Analysis of EGFR dimerization

EGFR dimerization assay was performed according to previously described method (Samet et al. 2003). Briefly, subconfluent cells deprived of serum for 12–18 h were exposed to 1 ppm O₃ for 30 min or air alone (Ct) in O₃ exposure chamber as described earlier. In addition, 10 ng/ml of EGF was incubated with cells for 5 min. The cells were then treated with 2.5 mM crosslinker BS3 in phosphate-buffered saline (PBS) for 30 min at room temperature. The cross-linking

reaction was stopped by incubating with PBS containing 20 mM Tris, pH 7.5, for 15 min. The cells were scraped into 1 ml of PBS and protein extracts were then prepared and subjected to immunoblotting using a mouse anti-human-EGFR antibody cocktail (Neomarkers, Fremont, CA) that recognizes the extracellular domain of the EGFR.

Immunoblotting

The cells exposed to 0.25-1.0 ppm O₃ for 0-120 min were washed twice with ice-cold PBS, and then lysed in RIPA buffer as described previously (Wu et al. 2011). The supernatants of cell lysates were subjected to SDS-PAGE. Proteins were transferred onto nitrocellulose membrane, which was then blocked with 5% nonfat milk, washed briefly, incubated with primary antibody at 4°C overnight, followed by incubating with corresponding HRP-conjugated secondary antibody for 1 h at room temperature. Immunoblot images were detected using chemiluminescence reagents and a Fujifilm LAS-3000 imaging system and the images digitized for quantification using MultiGauge v3.1 software (Fuji Medical Systems, USA). The optical density (OD) of the phosphor-specific band was expressed as a fraction (% P) of the total OD (i.e., phospho + non-phospho bands) for the species of interest.

Enzyme linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA)

After exposure to 1 ppm O₃ for 2 h, the cell culture media were collected and centrifuged. Levels of IL-8 protein in the supernatants were measured using an ELISA kit following the manufacturer's instructions (eBiosciences, San Diego, CA).

Statistical analysis

Data are presented as mean \pm SE and data comparisons were carried out by one-way ANOVAs followed by Dunnett's post-test and two-tailed Student's t-test with the overall α level set at 0.05.

Results

O₃ exposure induces phosphorylation of EGFR (Y1068) in HBEC

Preliminary experiments determined O₃ concentrations and exposure times that did not result in significant cytotoxicity as determined by LDH release (Data not shown). Phosphorylation of EGFR is an indicator of its activation. O₃-induced EGFR phosphorylation has been shown previously in human skin cells (Afaq et al. 2009). Here, we examined whether O₃ exposure could affect EGFR phosphorylation in HBEC. As shown in Figure 1A and 1B, O₃ exposure induced a concentration- and time-dependent increase in EGFR phosphorylation at tyrosine 1068 (Y1068) in BEAS-2B cells. Exposure to O₃ was also shown to increase EGFR (Y1068) phosphorylation in ALI-cultured primary human bronchial epithelial cells, demonstrating that this effect of O₃ is not limited to transformed cells (Figure 1C).

O₃ exposure does not induce EGFR dimerization

The finding that O₃ exposure induces the phosphorylation of EGFR at the putative autophorylation site Y1068 (Downward et al. 1984) suggested the possibility that O₃ activates the receptor through a mechanism that mimics ligand binding of the extracellular domain on the EGFR. To investigate this potential mechanism of activation of O₃-induced EGFR, we measured

EGFR dimerization, a marker of ligand-dependent activation of the EGFR, in the EGFR over-expressing cell line A431. As shown in Figure 2, relative to air-treated control (Ct), treatment of A431 cells with the natural ligand EGF induced dimerization of EGFR within 5 min. In marked contrast, EGFR dimerization was not detectable in A431 cells exposed to 1 ppm O₃ for 30 min, indicating that O₃ exposure does not cause EGFR activation through a ligand-like mechanism.

O₃ exposure induces Src-dependent phosphorylation of the EGFR in HBEC

We next examined the potential of EGFR activation through trans-phosphorylation by a kinase intermediate. We have shown previously that cytosolic tyrosine kinase Src is involved in EGFR transactivation in HBEC exposed to another oxidant stressor (Wu et al. 2002). Therefore, we examined the role of Src kinase in O₃-induced EGFR phosphorylation by first determining the effect of O₃ exposure on phosphorylation of Src at tyrosine 416, a specific activating site in the SH1 domain of c-Src (Dorsam et al. 2005), in O₃-exposed BEAS-2B cells. Exposure to 0.25-1.0 ppm O₃ for 120 min induced a concentration-dependent increase in the phosphorylation of Src (Y416) (Figure 3A). In addition, a time-dependent increase in Src (Y416) phosphorylation was observed in response to exposure to 1 ppm O₃ (Figure 3B).

Tyrosine 845 on the EGFR has been shown to be a site of transphosphorylation by Src kinase (Tice et al. 1999). As shown in Figure 4A, exposure to 0.25-1.0 ppm O₃ for 120 min induced phosphorylation of EGFR (Y845), and this effect was ablated by pretreatment of the cells with the Src kinase inhibitor PP2 (Figure 4B). Similarly, inhibition of Src kinase activity also

blunted O₃-induced phosphorylation of EGFR at Y1068 in normal human bronchial epithelial cells (Figure 4C). Pretreatment of BEAS-2B cells with the structurally unrelated Src kinase inhibitor Bosutinib, corroborated these findings (Supplemental Material Figure S1). We have previously shown that exposure to Zn²⁺ induces Src-dependent phosphorylation of EGFR (Wu et al, 2002). As expected, Src inhibition with Bosutinib effectively reduced Zn²⁺-induced phosphorylation of EGFR in BEAS-2B cells (Supplemental Material, Figure S2). Taken together, these data implicated Src kinase in O₃-induced EGFR transactivation at both trans- and auto-phosphorylation sites in HBEC.

EGFR kinase-dependent EGFR (Y1068) phosphorylation in O₃-exposed HBEC

Previous studies have demonstrated that phosphorylation of EGFR (Y1068) can occur in the presence or absence of EGFR kinase activity (Mueller et al. 2008; Wu et al. 2005). To determine whether Src-mediated EGFR (Y1068) phosphorylation is EGFR kinase-dependent, BEAS-2B cells (Figure 5A) or ALI-cultured primary human bronchial epithelial cells (Figure 5B) were pretreated with vehicle control (0.1% DMSO), or the specific EGFR kinase activity inhibitor C56 (1 μM) for 30 min before exposure to 1 ppm O₃ for 1 h. As shown in Figure 5, inhibition of EGFR kinase activity in human bronchial epithelial cells abrogated O₃-induced EGFR (Y1068) phosphorylation, implying that O₃-induced phosphorylation of EGFR at Y1068 requires the intrinsic kinase activity of the EGFR.

EGFR and Src kinase activities are required for O₃-induced IL-8 expression in HBEC

Previous studies have shown that exposure to O₃ results in increased expression of pro-inflammatory mediators including IL-8 in HBEC (Bayram et al. 2001; Devlin et al. 1994; Hiltermann et al. 1998; McKinnon et al. 1992). To determine the roles of EGFR and Src activation in pro-inflammatory response of HBEC to O₃ exposure, we next determined the effect of EGFR or Src inhibition on O₃-induced IL-8 expression in BEAS-2B cells. As shown in Figure 6, pre-treatment of BEAS-2B cells with either an EGFR or Src kinase activity inhibitor could abrogate IL-8 expression induced by exposure to 1 ppm O₃ for 2 h.

Discussion

The mechanisms for the transactivation of EGFR vary with the cell type and stimulus. Previous studies have shown that EGFR is involved in signaling networks activated by a number of stimuli that do not interact directly with this receptor (Carpenter 1999). These stimuli include G protein-coupled receptor agonists (Daub et al. 1997), calcium (Dethlefsen et al. 1998) and UV irradiation (Dent et al. 1999). The results from this study show that O₃ exposure transactivates EGFR through a mechanism that depends on the activation of the cytosolic tyrosine kinase Src, leading to elevated expression of IL-8.

The dependency of O₃-induced EGFR activation on Src activation in HBEC is supported by the findings of O₃-induced phosphorylation of Src at Y416, the phosphorylation of EGFR at the transactivation site Y845, and the inhibitory effect of Src kinase inhibitors on EGFR

phosphorylation. The mechanisms involved in O₃-induced Src activation are currently unknown. Our previous studies have shown that O₃ exposure can induce reactive oxygen species (ROS) production in BEAS-2B cells (Wu et al. 2011). It's assumed that O₃-induced excessive production of ROS and nitrogen intermediates (Hulo et al. 2011) may modify tyrosine residues altering phosphorylation of many protein kinases involved in cell signalling (Akhand et al. 1999). Another mechanism underlying O₃-induced Src activation may involve loss of homeostatic phosphatase activity. We have previously shown that loss of protein tyrosine phosphatase (PTP) activity is responsible for the initiation of EGFR signaling in HBEC exposed to zinc or diesel exhaust particles (Tal et al. 2006; Tal et al. 2008). PTPs are redox-sensitive proteins as their active-site cysteines are the targets of specific oxidation by various oxidants (Giannoni et al. 2005). In this regard, our observation in this study that another electrophilic insult, Zn²⁺, also induces Src-dependent EGFR transphosphorylation (Wu et al., 2002) is consistent with our previous report of Zn²⁺ induced inhibition of PTPs (Tal et al. 2006), and may reflect a uniform mechanism to oxidant stress that is relevant to other environmental electrophiles as well. Additional studies will be required to investigate the role of PTP activity in O₃-induced activation of Src leading to EGFR activation and IL-8 expression.

EGFR (Y845) is particularly interesting because of its location within the activation loop of the tyrosine kinase domain of the EGFR. This tyrosine residue is highly homologous to tyrosines that are sites of autophosphorylation found in the kinase domains of other tyrosine kinases (Biscardi et al. 2000), which have been shown to be critical to their activation. Unlike the

tyrosines in these other kinases, EGFR (Y845) is not an autophosphorylation site and does not need to be phosphorylated for the kinase to be active (Tice, et al. 1999). However, phosphorylation of EGFR (Y845) has been proposed as a direct substrate of Src (Tice, et al. 1999). Our previous study has demonstrated that mutating this tyrosine to a nonphosphorylatable phenylalanine lead to an abrogation of zinc-induced Ras activation in fibroblasts (Wu, et al. 2002). In a separate study we observed that the Src kinase inhibitor PP2 significantly blocked zinc-induced phosphorylation of EGFR (Y845) in A431 cells (Samet, et al. 2003). Similarly, in the present study PP2 or Bosutinib pretreatment markedly inhibited O₃-induced EGFR (Y845) phosphorylation. Taken together, these data suggest that EGFR (Y845) phosphorylation is critical to EGFR/c-Src synergy and cross talk.

Nevertheless, there is also evidence to suggest that EGFR (Y845) is not the only target site for Src kinase. For example, our study in A431 cells showed that zinc ions can induce phosphorylation of EGFR (Y1068) and EGFR (Y845) that is Src-dependent but EGFR kinase-independent (Samet, et al. 2003). Amos et al. have demonstrated that Src kinase is required for phorbol 12-myristate 13- acetate-induced EGFR (Y1068) phosphorylation using PP2 and siRNA against c-Src (Amos et al. 2005). These studies suggest that Src kinase can directly phosphorylate EGFR (Y1068). In contrast, the present study shows that Src-regulated EGFR (Y1068) phosphorylation is mediated by EGFR kinase since the EGFR kinase inhibitor C56 significantly blocked O₃-induced EGFR (Y1068) phosphorylation in BEAS-2B cells. Thus, we infer that O₃ stimulation first activates Src, which in turn causes EGFR (Y845) phosphorylation.

Phosphorylated EGFR (Y845) that is located in the EGFR kinase domain facilitates the modification of EGFR kinase domain conformation, leading to its activation and the subsequent autophosphorylation of EGFR (Y1068). This hypothesis could be examined using cells expressing kinase-inactive or Y845-mutated EGFR. In addition, oxidative stress has been reported to induce ligand-independent EGFR activation through a conformational modification of the intracellular kinase domain under conditions in which the c-Src is physically bound to EGFR (Filosto, et al. 2011). Additionally, the extreme reactivity of O₃ may have led to an underestimation of cytotoxicity in the present study, leaving open the possibility that the initiation of signaling is secondary to the induction of cellular injury. Additional studies will be required to test these possible mechanisms of EGFR activation in O₃-exposed HBEC.

EGFR has been shown to be involved in signaling leading to increased IL-8 production by human airway epithelial cells in chronic inflammatory airway diseases (Hamilton et al. 2003; Richter et al. 2002). The present study shows that Src-regulated EGFR activation is necessary for O₃-induced IL-8 expression in HBEC. Additional mechanisms involved in O₃-induced EGFR activation leading to IL-8 remain to be elucidated. The traditional cytoplasmic EGFR-initiated route involves transduction of mitogenic signals through activation of several signaling cascades, such as phospholipase C γ , protein kinase C, mitogen activated protein kinases, phosphatidylinositol-3-kinase, and signal transducer and activator of transcription (STATs) (Bae et al. 1997; Cattaneo et al. 2011; Lo and Hung 2006; Martinez-Carpio and Trelles 2010). In the nuclear pathway, activated EGFR undergoes fast nuclear translocation, where it physically or

functionally interacts with other transcription factors possessing DNA-binding activity and STAT3, leading to up-regulation of genes involved in a host of cellular responses that include IL-8 expression (Lin et al. 2001; Lo and Hung 2006; Xu et al. 2006).

In summary, the findings of this study show that exposure to O₃ causes Src-dependent EGFR activation leading to a pro-inflammatory response that includes IL-8 expression in human airway epithelial cells. Given that O₃ exposure is a widespread public health concern, characterization of the mechanisms underlying O₃-induced airway inflammation will yield insights useful in the design of preventive and therapeutic interventions.

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Figure Legends

Figure 1. O₃ exposure induces phosphorylation of EGFR (Y1068) in HBEC. **A**, BEAS-2B cells grown to confluence were exposed to 1 ppm O₃ for the indicated times. **B**, BEAS-2B cells grown to confluence were exposed to indicated concentrations of O₃ for 2 h. **C**, Normal human bronchial epithelial cells were cultured in an ALI system and exposed to 1 ppm O₃ for 30 min. In each case, the protein were extracted from the cells and subjected to SDS-PAGE followed by immunoblotting using a phospho-specific anti-EGFR antibody, followed by a pan-EGFR antibody. % P indicates the optical density of the p-EGFR band as a fraction of the total EGFR signal (p-EGFR+EGFR). Data shown are representative of three separate experiments.

Figure 2. O₃ exposure is unable to cause EGFR dimerization in A431 cells. Confluent A431 cells were exposed to 10 ng/ml EGF for 5 min, air-treated control (Ct), or 1 ppm O₃ for 30 min, respectively. The cells were then exposed to the cross-linking agent BS3 or saline, and total protein extracts were then extracted and subjected to Western blotting using anti-EGFR antibodies.

Figure 3. O₃ exposure induces phosphorylation of Src (Y416) in BEAS-2B cells. BEAS-2B cells grown to confluence were exposed to the indicated concentrations of O₃ for 2 h (**A**), or to 1 ppm O₃ for the indicated time periods (**B**). In each case, the protein were extracted from the cells and subjected to SDS-PAGE followed by immunoblotting using a phospho-specific anti-Src (Y416) antibody, followed by a pan-Src antibody. % P indicates the optical density of the p-Src band as a fraction of the total Src signal (p-Src+Src). Data shown are representative of three separate experiments.

Figure 4. Src kinase is required for O₃-induced phosphorylation of EGFR in HBEC. (**A**) BEAS-2B cells grown to confluence were exposed to the indicated concentrations of O₃ for 2 h. BEAS-2B cells (**B**) or ALI-cultured normal human bronchial epithelial cells (**C**) were pretreated with vehicle control (0.1% DMSO), or the Src kinase inhibitor PP2 (10 μM) for 30 min prior to

exposure to 1 ppm O₃ for 1 h. In each case, the protein were extracted from the cells and subjected to SDS-PAGE followed by immunoblotting using phospho-specific EGFR antibodies, followed by a pan-EGFR antibody. % P indicates the optical density of the p-EGFR band as a fraction of the total EGFR signal (p-EGFR+EGFR). Data shown are representative of three separate experiments.

Figure 5. O₃-induced phosphorylation of EGFR (Y1068) is abrogated by the EGFR inhibitor C56. BEAS-2B cells (**A**) or ALI-cultured normal human bronchial epithelial cells (**B**) were pretreated with vehicle control (0.1% DMSO), or C56 (1 μM) for 30 min before exposure to 1 ppm O₃ for 1 h, respectively. The cells were lysed and phosphorylation of EGFR (Y1068) was determined as described in Methods. Data shown are representative of three separate experiments.

Figure 6. O₃-induced IL-8 expression was blocked by the inhibitors of EGFR or Src in BEAS-2B cells. BEAS-2B cells were pretreated with vehicle control (0.1% DMSO), PP2 (10 μM), or C56 (1 μM) for 30 min before exposure to 1 ppm O₃ for 2 h. Culture media were collected for determination of IL-8 protein in the supernatants using ELISA. * denotes p<0.05 (n=3, t-test), difference from matched air controls.

Figure 1

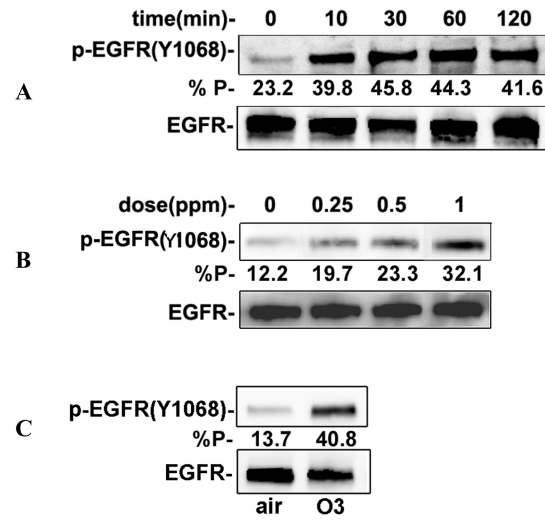


Figure 2

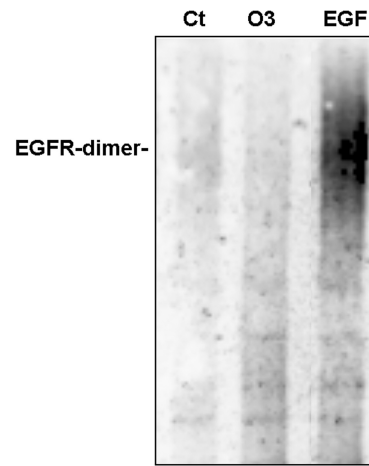


Figure 3

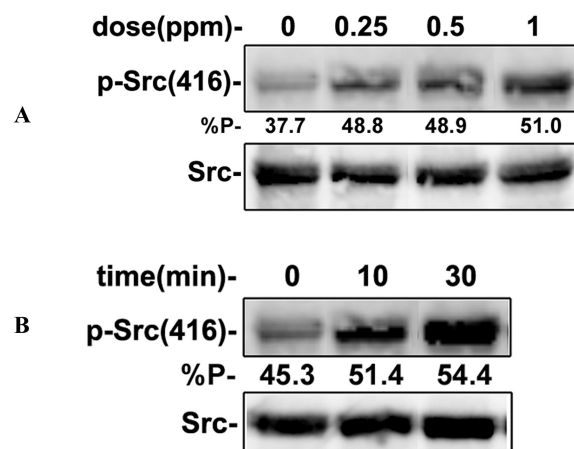


Figure 4

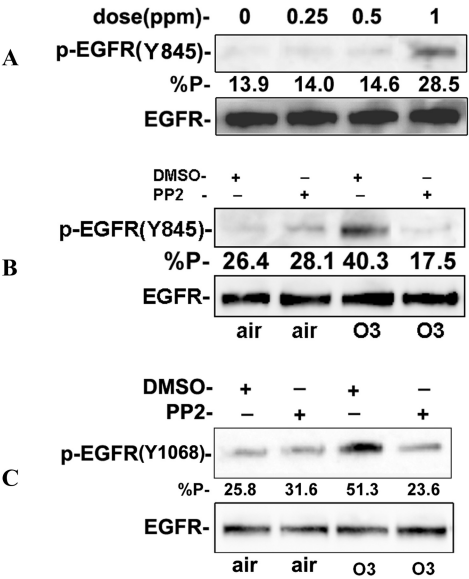


Figure 5

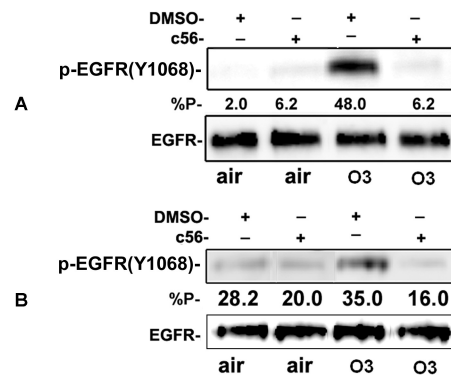


Figure 6

